

REUBEN H. WATERS.

JUNE 6, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. RAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1780.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1780) granting an increase of pension to Reuben H. Waters, have examined the same and all the evidence relating thereto and most respectfully report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from \$8 to \$24 per month the pension of Reuben H. Waters, of the city of Binghamton, N. Y.

Reuben H. Waters served from August 16, 1861, to January 21, 1865, as sergeant and assistant commissary of musters, with rank of second lieutenant, Company A, Fifty-second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and he also served three months at the outbreak of the war in Eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was honorably discharged from both organizations. It will be noticed that the soldier served honorably and faithfully for over four years. He suffered great hardships, and contracted heart disease and general debility while in the service, result of malaria and exposure.

These diseases had their origin during the seven days' fight before Richmond in 1862, when, as we all know, our troops were actively engaged and exposed to great danger and privation among the swamps of that section and rains of that climate and season. He was treated in hospital.

These disabilities have increased until the soldier is totally disabled, mentally and physically. He has been in this condition a long time, is very poor, has a wife to support, and is a man of good character and habits, and requires constant aid and attendance.

His neighbors and friends and the members of the Grand Army of the Republic unite in asking an increase of pension for this deserving and brave soldier. He has exhausted his remedy at the Bureau. It is not claimed that his physical condition is due to vicious habits, but it is insisted that the evidence is not conclusive that his disabilities are of service origin.

Your committee accept the proof, and, as he requires the frequent and periodical attendance of another, \$24 per month is less than he is entitled to.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass, when amended as follows:

Line 7, strike out "seventy-five" and insert "twenty-four" in lieu thereof.

Insert a comma after the word "month," line 7, and strike out "Sec. 2. That such pension shall be" in next to last line.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Reuben H. Waters."

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Broome, ss:*

Reuben H. Waters, being duly sworn, says that he was a member of Company A, Fifty-second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and detailed assistant commissary of muster, with rank as second lieutenant, under Maj. Gen. Q. A. Gilmore, and located at Hilton Head, S. C., Jacksonville, Fla., and various other places; enlisted in the service of the United States September 27, 1861, and discharged January 31, 1865, by reason of expiration of service, and that I am 60 years of age. Previous to this I served three months in the Eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

I am now, and have been for several months past, confined to my house by sickness, and need the almost constant aid and attendance of another person. The first I ever felt of the disease of which I am now afflicted was a day or two after the seven days' fight in Virginia, under Major-General McClellan, the fore part of July, 1862. The attacks were light at that time, and I did not pay much attention to them. These attacks have continued with more or less frequency and severity down to the present time. After leaving the Army I was depending on my labor as a bookkeeper for a living, and concealed these attacks as much as possible for fear of losing my several positions, expecting them to pass off after a while. I am now getting \$6 a month under act of June 27, 1890. Can not get a pension under the general pension law, for want of proof caused by the death of my comrades who could have furnished the necessary proof. I have no means of support, except as above stated. The disease of which I am now suffering I contracted in the service of the United States, as above stated. My post-office address is 15 Florence avenue, Binghamton, N. Y.

REUBEN H. WATERS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23d day of November, 1896; and I certify that the foregoing affidavit was fully made known to said affiant before execution, and that he is a reputable person and entitled to credit, and that I have no interest in this claim.

[SEAL.]

(Certificate filed.)

JAMES E. BURLEIGH, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Broome, ss:*

Anna Waters, being duly sworn, says: I am the wife of Reuben H. Waters, who was a member of Company A, Fifty-second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, detailed assistant commissary of muster, with rank of second lieutenant, under Maj. Gen. Q. A. Gilmore. I have known said Reuben H. Waters from childhood to the present time, and never knew of him being afflicted with any disease before he entered the service of the United States. We were married April 29, 1865. Almost immediately after we were married I noticed at times he did not act right, and asked him what was the matter with him. His reply was, "I don't know what it is; it is something I got in the Army; it will wear off soon." He said the first he ever felt of it was a day or two after the seven days' fight under Major-General McClellan, in July, 1862. These attacks have been growing more frequent and severe down to the present time, and now he requires the almost constant aid and attendance of myself or some other person. These attacks at first did not produce unconsciousness, but as they grew more frequent and severe they did.

ANNA WATERS.

Subscribed and sworn to this 23d day of November, 1896; and I certify that the foregoing affidavit was fully made known to said affiant, and that she is entitled to credit, and that I have no interest in this claim.

[SEAL.]

JAMES E. BURLEIGH, *Notary Public.*

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., *November 17, 1896.*

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that I am a regular practicing physician and surgeon, and have been continuously engaged in the same for a period of twelve and one-half years. About five years ago I was called to treat Reuben H. Waters, a soldier of the late rebellion, for epileptic attacks and weakened action of the heart, which attacks date back to when he was in the Army. These attacks gradually grew more frequent and severe after the war was over, until now he is almost a complete wreck, mentally

and physically. It requires one person to look after him almost constantly. He is wholly unable to perform any kind of labor or even look after his own personal wants. These cases almost invariably go from bad to worse until they become lunatics or death relieves them of their suffering. I have been physician to the family for about five years, and have treated him a great many times for the aforesaid named disease.

F. P. HOUGH, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of November, 1896.

[SEAL.]

E. A. MATTHEWS, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Broome, ss:*

E. G. Radeker, being duly sworn, says that he is well acquainted with Reuben H. Waters, who was a member of Company A, Fifty-second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and detailed as assistant commissary of muster, with rank as second lieutenant, and has known him for the last fifteen years. Ever since he has been acquainted with him, the said Reuben H. Waters, he has been subject to fits or poor spells of some kind, which have grown more frequent and severe each year, until now he is unable to take care of himself, and requires the aid and attendance of another person almost constantly. When I first became aware of these fits or poor spells I asked him why he did not get a pension. He said he could not, because the comrades whose testimony he needed and who knew about his first illness, which was a day or two after the seven days' fight under Maj. Gen. George McClellan, were then dead. My post-office address is 185 Main street, Binghamton, N. Y.

E. G. RADEKER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23d day of November, 1896; and I testify that the foregoing affidavit was fully made known to said affiant, and that he is well known to me to be of good repute and entitled to credit, and that I have no interest in this claim.

[SEAL.]

JAMES E. BURLEIGH, *Notary Public*.

(Certificate filed.)

BINGHAMTON, N. Y., November 14, 1896.

To the Hon. George W. Ray, Member of Congress, Members of the Fifty-fourth Congress, and President of the United States:

We, the undersigned, respectfully ask that our worthy citizen and ex-soldier, Reuben H. Waters, who was a member of Company A, Fifty-second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, detailed assistant commissary of muster, with rank as second lieutenant, under Q. A. Gilmore, major-general commanding the Department of the South, be granted, by act of Congress, a special or private pension equal in amount to what others are getting for the same degree of disability for diseases contracted in the service of the United States during the late civil war, as we believe, from the evidence produced, he contracted the disease of which he is now suffering in the service of the United States.

Geo. W. Dunn, Geo. C. Freed, mayor; Wm. Mason, president board of aldermen; Jas. E. Northrup, alderman, Second Ward; C. E. Smith, alderman, First Ward; Schuyler C. Brandt, alderman, Ninth Ward; N. E. Severson, alderman, Seventh Ward; P. W. Talbott, alderman, Sixth Ward; C. E. Thompson, alderman, Eleventh Ward; W. R. Ashcroft, alderman, Fourth Ward; S. D. Kane, alderman, Fifth Ward; M. T. Garvey, alderman, Eighth Ward; James H. Tobin, alderman, Tenth Ward; Reuben B. Jump, alderman, Twelfth Ward; C. P. Radecker, city treasurer; L. Seymour, city clerk; George R. Lyon, supreme court justice; T. L. Arms, county judge; J. A. Rider, county treasurer; T. B. Newell, county clerk; U. S. Stevens, sheriff Broome County; A. G. Wales, sheriff-elect Broome County; Wm. H. Mosher, street commissioner; John P. Woething, W. S. Lyon, C. J. Moffatt, Wm. D. Fuller, L. B. Gleason, C. Dusenbury, T. M. Reed, S. G. Twining, Henry Meaker, G. D. Foster, Orrin Holden, G. H. Buck, B. B. Bodger, Diar Baker, M. O. Eggleston, Harry Rhoades, Frederic W. McCall (Ninth Ward), John E. Stowell, Henry Kales, Jasper Smith, E. H. Ballou, J. A. Lyon, Samuel Baylero, supervisors Broome County; F. J. Inderbird, chairman Broome County supervisors; A. W. T. Back, secretary Republican county committee; W. Orincup, Neil Finch, supervisors Broome County; S. E. Monroe, city engineer; C. H. Montrose, superintendent of streets; Charles Wales, street commissioner; Louis Baird, street commissioner.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Broome, ss:*

E. G. Radeker and Jonathan French, being duly sworn, say they are 21 years of age and are well acquainted with R. H. Waters, late a commissary of muster on the staff of Maj. Gen. Quincy A. Gilmore and a first lieutenant, and have been for the last five years. Said R. H. Waters has been for the last year and a half unable to perform any labor, mentally or physically, and requires the constant care of a third person.

E. G. RADEKER.
JONATHAN FRENCH.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 18th day of February, 1898; and I further certify that I am acquainted with E. G. Radeker and Jonathan French, and that they are reputable and entitled to credit.

[SEAL.]

JAMES F. PETTIT,
Notary Public, Broome County, N. Y.

Certificate on file.